Amendments to the Specification

Please add the following paragraph between the title and the first line of text as follows:

This is a Division of Application No. 09/759,472 filed January 16, 2001. The entire disclosure of the prior application is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, lines 3-7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, the low heat conductive member 209 may adopt a structure in which the low heat conductive member 209 is integrally provided with a lock piece 209b and the lock piece ~~9b~~209b is supported by the leaf spring 207 as shown in Fig. 9 to prevent detachment from the lever holder 208.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 20 - page 16, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In a third embodiment, as shown in Fig. 12, a starter 301 is constructed to include a starter motor 302 for generating rotational force by receiving electricity conduction, an output shaft ~~203~~ 303 arranged coaxially with a rotating shaft of the starter motor 302, a movable cylindrical body 304 fitted to a helical spline 303a of the output shaft 303 and movable forward and rearward in an axial direction along the helical spline 303a, a restricting member 305 for kicking out the movable cylindrical body 304 to advance by a predetermined amount by bringing a pinion gear 304a in mesh with a ring gear 300 while restricting the movable cylindrical body 304 from retreating in order to bring a teeth portion (pinion gear) 304a of the movable cylindrical body 304 in mesh with the ring gear 300 of the engine, and drive unit 306 for pushing out a lever 352 of the restricting member 305 in a direction to a side of the movable cylindrical body 304. The lever 352 is used to generate a spring force.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, lines 12-26, with the following rewritten paragraph:

That is, the one-way clutch 304b is provided movably in the forward and rearward direction on the output shaft 303 integrally with the cylindrical movable body 304 by being helical spline-fitted to the outer periphery of the outputshaft 303 slidably via the helical spline 303a. The pinion gear 304a is fitted slidably to the outer periphery of the output shaft 303 via a bearing ~~34a1~~304a1, move forward on the output shaft 303 integrally with the one-way clutch 304b via the lever 352 and brought in mesh with the ring gear 300 to thereby transmit rotational force to the ring gear 300. Meanwhile, the one-way clutch 304b transmits rotation of the output shaft 303 to the pinion gear 304a and blocks power transmission between the output shaft 303 and the pinion gear 304a when rotational speed of the pinion gear 304a exceeds rotational speed of the output shaft 303 by starting the engine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 27 - page 18, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The restricting member (shift lever device) 305 is constructed with a support portion 351, the lever 352 supported by the support portion 351 and having a leaf spring 352a and a pin 352c supported by the support portion 351 for pivoting the lever 352. In the shift lever device 305, one side of the lever 352 is arranged to be capable of transmitting reciprocal movement of a movable portion 306a in the axial direction to the cylindrical movable body 304 by being brought into contact with the movable portion 306a of the drive unit 306 with the support portion 351 as a fulcrum and other side thereof is arranged to be capable of moving to a contact face 304bl of the cylindrical movable body 304 with the support portion 351 as a fulcrum by operating the drive unit 306 when the engine is started. Further, as shown in Fig. 12, the shift lever device 305 is contained in a front cover 307 and incorporated

in the starter 301 along with the drive unit 306, the starter motor 302 and the output shaft 303 rotated integrally with the starter motor 302.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 20, lines 7-15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Rotation of the output shaft 303 is transmitted to the pinion gear 304a in contact with the ring gear 300. ~~when~~ When the pinion gear 304a is rotated up to a rotational angular position capable of being brought in mesh with the ring gear 300, the pinion gear 304a is moved forward impulsively by spring force of the leaf spring 352a held in the lever 352. Accordingly, the pinion gear 304a can be brought into mesh with the ring gear 300. Thereby, rotation of the pinion gear 304a is transmitted to the ring gear 300 to thereby start the engine.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 27 - page 24, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the lever holder 352b and the pin 352c for applying set load to the leaf spring 352a are subjected to material improvement or surface hardening by heat treatment, an increase in strength thereof can be achieved without enlarging configuration thereof. Therefore, a range of setting the set load to the leaf spring 352a can be enlarged. That is, the lever holder ~~52b~~ 352b and the pin ~~52c~~ 352c are formed by a metallic material. Accordingly, increase of strength by heat treatment can be carried out to provide desired set load. Therefore, it is not necessary to select means for enlarging configurations of the lever holder 352b and the pin 352c for increasing strength. Therefore, the configuration can be downsized in comparison with a material which cannot adopt means for increasing strength by material improvement or surface hardening by heat treatment as in a resin material.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 25, line 21 - page 26, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the key switch is brought into the ON state, that is, the electromagnetic switch 306 is brought into the ON state, as shown in Fig. 14B, the electromagnetic switch 306 is brought into an operating state. That is, the movable portion 306a is moved in the right direction integrally with the plunger 361 from a state of Fig. 14A to a state of Fig. 14B. At this occasion, the contact portion 352aT of the leaf spring 352a contained in the lever 352 of the shift lever device 305, is brought into contact with the movable portion 306a. When the movable portion 306a is further moved in the right direction, the contact portions 352d of the lever 352 supported by the support portion 351 are moved by a predetermined amount to the side of the contact face ~~34b1~~ 304b1 of the pinion gear 304a in accordance with an amount of moving the movable portion 306a. The contact portion ~~352a~~ 352d is brought into contact with the contact face ~~34b1~~ 304b1 and moves forward and makes the pinion gear 304a of the cylindrical body 304 advance to be brought into contact with the ring gear 300. That is, the pinion gear 304a is moved forward on the output shaft ~~3~~ 303 and is brought into contact with the ring gear 300.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 29, lines 10-20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, as shown in Fig. 15B, the leaf spring 352a is provided with projected portions 352aK locked by notched portions 352bK of the lever holder 352b. Accordingly, an integration operation of applying set load to the leaf spring 352a by pinching the leaf spring 352a by the lever holder 352b and the pin 352c, the leaf spring 352a and the lever holder 352b are less likely to shift from each other. Thus, the integration operation of integrating the pin ~~352a~~ 352c to the lever holder 352b can be facilitated. Further, it is preferable to provide the projected portions 352aK at front ends of the bifurcated portions 352aF as shown in Fig. 15B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, lines 2-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

When the projected end portion 352aK does not catch the lever holder 352b by bending thereof but as shown in Fig. 15A, formed on a developed plane of the leaf spring 352a, there can be constructed a construction in which stress concentration is less likely to operate at the projected end portion 352aK even when the notched portion 352bK of the lever holder 352b is caught thereby.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, lines 15-21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Next, as shown in Fig. 15A, the pin ~~52e~~352c constituting the support member is formed in a cylindrical shape. Accordingly, movement of an operating point for applying set load to the leaf spring 352a can be made smaller than in a polygonal shape such as a rectangular shape. Accordingly, excessive load accompanied by moving the leaf spring 352a can be made less likely to occur at the end portion 352aK.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 32, line 22 - page 33, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Further, it is preferable to set to arrange the end portion 352aK as follows in relation to the pin 352c constituting the support member. That is, a distance of separating the pin ~~352~~ 352c and the end portion 352aK is set to be larger than a movement amount for moving the leaf spring 352a owing to deformation thereof. Thereby, interference of the end portion 352aK with the pin 352c by deforming the leaf spring 352a can be avoided. Accordingly, excessive load can be prevented from being loaded on the leaf spring 352a.